

WESTERNER

Omaha Works
March 1983



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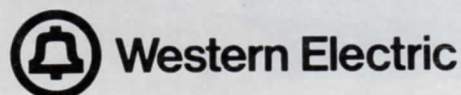
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On the cover

It was sunny and warm with temperatures predicted in the 90s on the day ground was broken for the Omaha Plant. The day was June 28, 1956, and all of the Omaha shops' employees from Buildings A and B downtown were bused to the site at 132nd and L streets for the occasion. Officials participating in the ceremonies included Fred Kappel, Western Electric president, and Herbert Heath, manager of the Omaha Plant. For more nostalgic pictures and a story about our planned 25-year celebration, turn to Page 4.

WESTERNER

Linda Ryan, editor
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Irish folklore tales are many

*There was a young lady named
Stella,
Fell in love with a bowlegged
fella.*

*The venturesome chap
Let her sit in his lap,
And she fell clean through to
the cella.*

Everyone loves a good limerick.

The humorous and nonsensical verse is popular throughout the world. But did you know the limerick has its origin in Ireland?

Legend has it that the verse, named after the County Limerick, developed at social gatherings in North Munster. Sailors, travelers and other picked up the form, spreading it throughout the world.

Limericks are but a small sampling of the folklore and humor of the Irish people, that have been adapted or that have influenced the culture of this country. Indeed, when St. Patrick's Day rolls around each year, what other country in the world — outside of the Emerald Isle itself — is more "Irish" than this?

On the 17th of the month, the "wearing" o' the green" will be evident. Why green is worn at all is a tradition rich in its own folklore.

Some say green was the color worn by people in Ireland in the olden days so they could disguise themselves as leprechauns. It was thought to be a charm which would protect human folks from bewitching spells cast by leprechauns — members of "the wee people" in Irish folklore.

Others say it's the national color of Ireland, taken from the lush green foliage — notably, shamrocks — which covers the country.

The shamrocks many people wear on St. Patrick's Day are emblematic of Irish nationals rebelling against British interference in the late 1700s. That's one story.

Another favorite bit of folklore traces the shamrock's roots to St. Patrick who, some say, used it to teach Christian doctrine about the Holy Trinity. Others say, however, the shamrock represented the Cross to Irish Christians.

The story of St. Patrick himself is not one, but many. Perhaps one of the most popular stories depicts the saint as a white-bearded bishop who banished snakes (the symbol of evil) from all of Ireland. But historians dispute the tale.

Ireland never had snakes, historians insist, explaining that the snake story developed out of a misunderstanding. When the Norsemen invaded Ireland in the Eighth Century, they noticed the land had no toads. They heard of a man named "Paudrig," which means "toad expeller" in Norse. They associated it with St. Patrick who was in Ireland in the Fourth Century. Snakes, apparently, were classified with toads.

The stories are seemingly endless. Maybe it's because they are so amusing that they have endured the test of time even among those of us whose ancestors never spoke with the lilt of the Irish.

They're fun — and just for fun, here's a pop quiz to test how "Irish" you are:

1. A banshee is an ancient Irish musical instrument, the forerunner of the banjo. True or false?

2. A Blarney stone is (a) a

precious stone used in engagement rings, (b) a common stone used in Irish cemeteries as grave markers, (c) an almost inaccessible stone in Blarney Castle which guarantees the power of persuasion to whoever is able to kiss it.

3. Leprechauns are the "wee people" of Ireland who tailor clothes and keep a pot of gold handy to buy their way out of human captivity. True or false?

4. A shellelagh is a small harp that leprechauns play. True or false?

5. A young Irish girl is a (a) doreen, (b) colleen, (c) spalpeen.

6. A pooka is (a) a hat men wore in early Ireland, featuring a large buckle in front, (b) a kiss, (c) a mischievous Irish spirit.

Answers:

1. False — it's an Irish fairy who follows old families and wails loudly just before a family member dies. 2. (c). 3. False — they're shoemakers. 4. False — it's a walking stick. 5. (b). 6. (c).

Ireland has a wee bit o' Omaha

On St. Patrick's Day, there's a bit of Irish in all of us.

And now we can say there's a bit of Omaha in the Emerald Isle.

Two 40-type FDI cabinets manufactured here at the Omaha Works have been shipped to Dublin, Ireland.

Working with George Karras,



FOR IRISH EYES . . . The packing team of Jim McDonald (left) and Joe Backes of Dept. 439 were responsible for packing the two 40-type cabinets for Ireland. Before packing them in wooden boxes, they made sure the stub cable was secured and they installed the wired frame into each cabinet.

we shipped the cabinets to a transfer point in New Jersey, where they were picked up by AT&T International, Inc. Karras is a department chief for Western Electric international sales, product management — outside plant systems, based in Atlanta, Ga.

AT&T International shipped the cabinets to Telectron Limited, an Irish manufacturing company in Dublin. The cabinets are now being installed, demonstrating their adaptability to the specific telecommunications needs of a country 5,000 miles

away.

The cabinets we sent were standard pedestal models. They bore no shamrock decals or similar insignias that might have hinted at their destination.

But you can be sure many an Irish hand contributed to their manufacture on the shop floor — right down to the Irish lads who prepared and packed the cabinets for shipment, Jim McDonald and Joe Backes (or is it O'Backes?) of Dept. 439.

Even the cabinets' color is perfect: They're green.

Get ready to mark 25 years

Almost 25 years ago this November, the Omaha Works officially opened its doors for business.

With this being our silver anniversary year, plans are in the making for a celebration this summer unlike any we have had at the Works.

We'll print the details about it in later issues of the *Westerner*, but be assured it will be an enjoyable and memorable occasion for employees and their families.

Meanwhile, there are a couple of ways we can gear up for the celebration and have some fun, too.

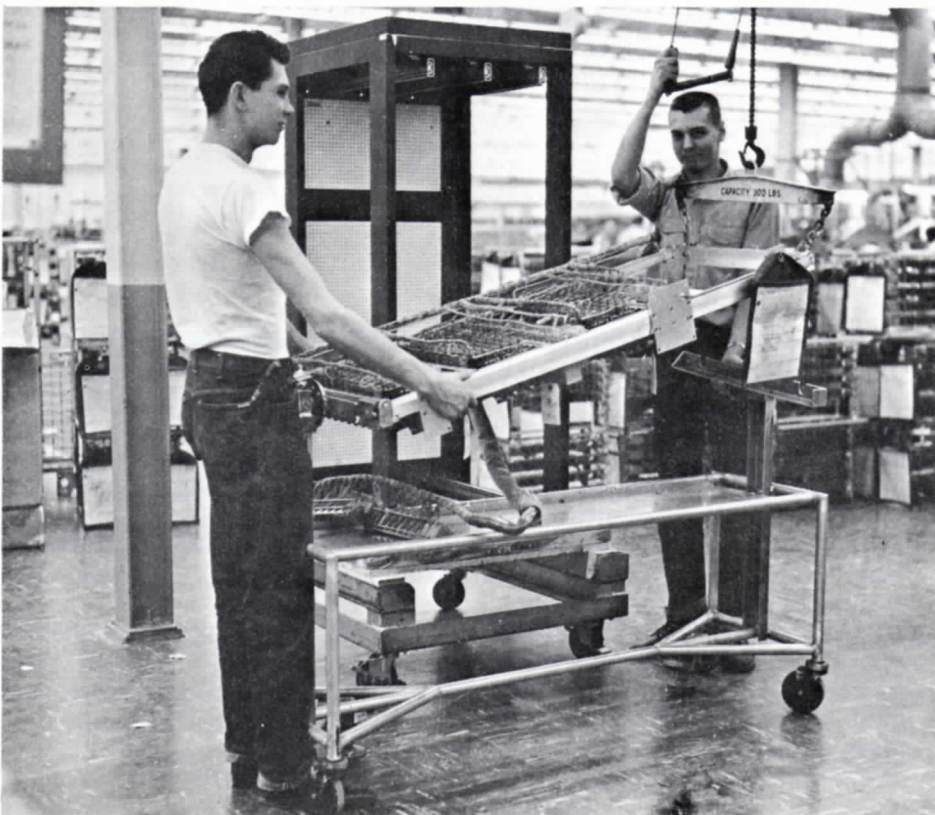
The first is a request for employees to come forward with their names or names of co-workers they think deserve recognition for the part they've played in shaping the Works' 25-year history. Maybe you were the first employee to receive a suggestion award. Or maybe you know someone who holds the record for longest service in a particular job.

Jot down the information and send it or call Linda Ryan on Ext. 3553, Organization 520.

The second way is a mini-promotion of sorts that pertains to the nostalgic pictures displayed on these two pages. Look at the people in these photos that date back to the early years of our operations.

If you can identify yourself in one of the photos, we've got a surprise for you in the public relations office (second floor, southwest corner of Building 20). All you have to do is come to the office, show us your picture and claim your gift.





IS THAT YOU? . . . A surprise awaits the men or women who see themselves in the photo of employees leaving Building 30 at a shift change (far left), during break time (above) or getting ready to mount a PBX slide frame (left).

Stock, savings and divestiture

Any major change affecting a business that requires 471 typewritten pages to explain how it will be done is bound to stir a question or two.

AT&T's plan to divest itself of its 22 Bell operating telephone companies is no exception. AT&T filed its 471-page plan with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. District Court in December of last year.

As we await approval of the divestiture plan, many employees are wondering what's going to happen to their AT&T stock and their company-sponsored savings plans.

Part of the divestiture plan describes how AT&T wants to establish initial public ownership of the divested companies by distributing stock to current AT&T stock owners. The plan specifies that the 22 divested Bell operating telephone companies will be organized into seven regional groupings. Each grouping will be controlled by a regional holding corporation.

(The map shows how Northwestern Bell, the operating company servicing our area, combines with Mountain Bell and Pacific Northwest Bell, forming one of the seven regions.)

The divestiture plan is proposed to occur Jan. 1, 1984. When it does, each of the seven regional holding companies, according to the plan, will have about the same value in total

assets.

So what does that mean if you are a stockholder or savings plan participant?

AT&T stock

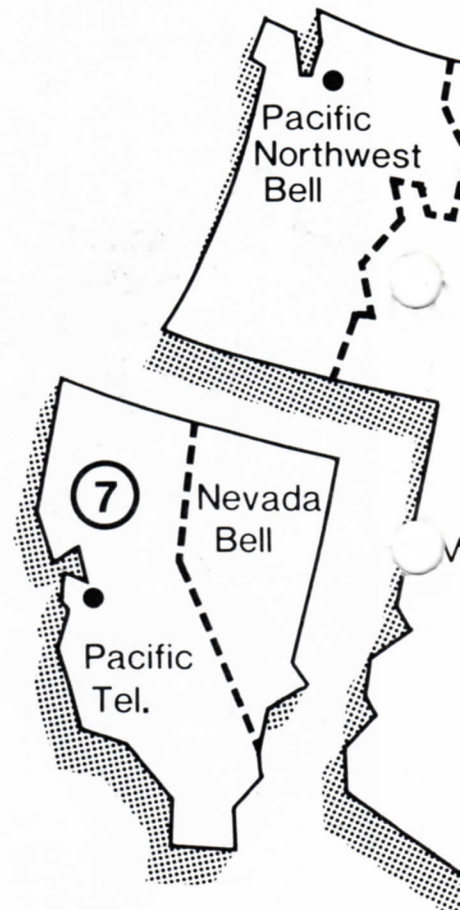
If you are an AT&T stockholder, you will continue to own the same number of shares of stock in the **new** AT&T company that has been divested of its 22 operating companies. For every 10 shares of AT&T stock you own as of a yet undetermined date in December 1983, you will receive one share of stock in each of the seven regional holding companies.

So, if you own 10 shares of AT&T stock, you will be issued one share of stock in the Mountain and Great Plains Regional Company (see map) and one share in each of the other six regional holding companies. If you own 50 shares, you will receive five shares in each of the holding companies.

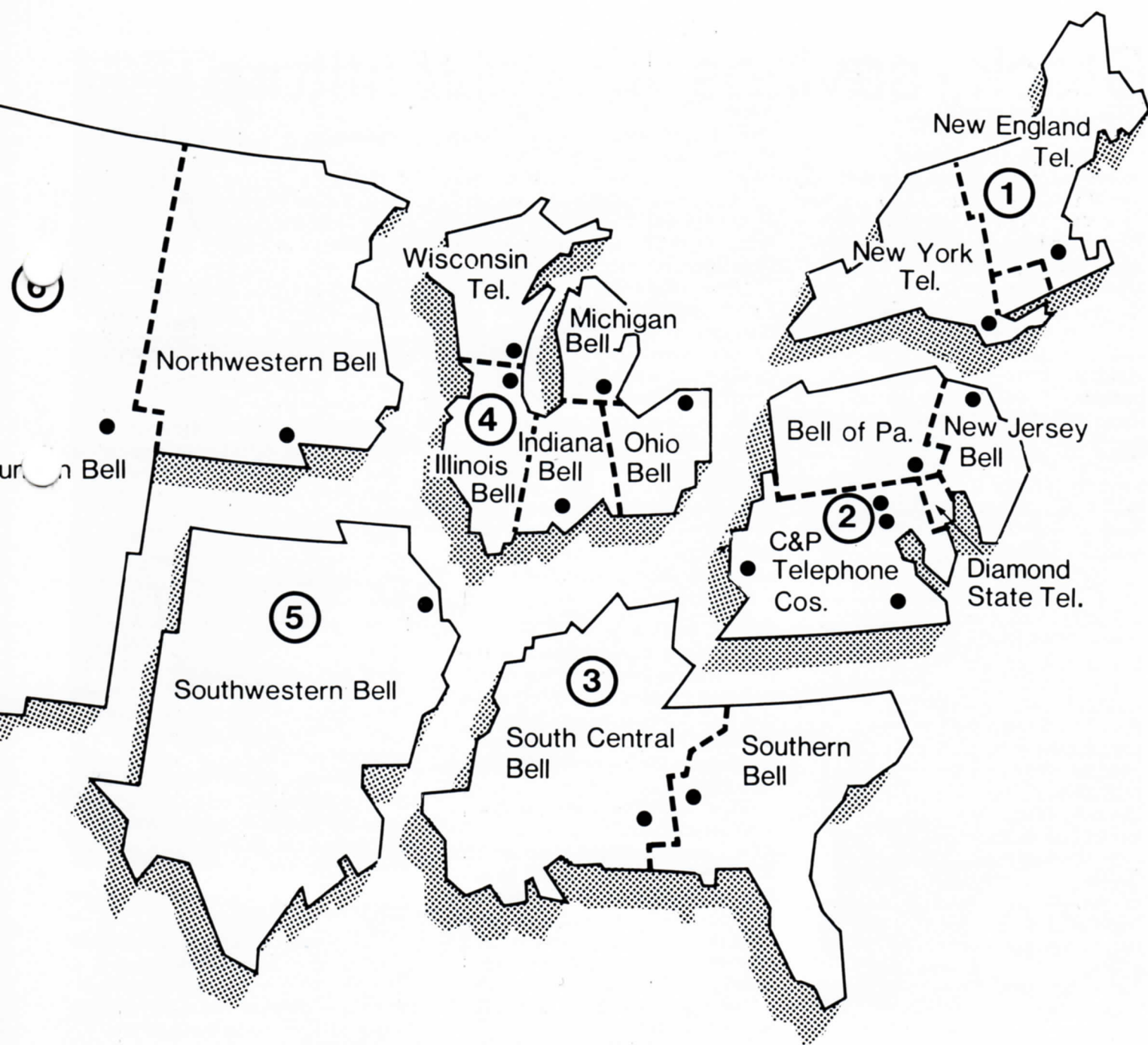
If you own less than 10 shares of AT&T stock, however, you won't be issued fractional shares in the regional companies. You will keep your shares of AT&T stock and be given cash for the value of the fractional shares.

If you own 10 or more shares of AT&T stock but less than 500 shares when the stock is distributed, you will have several options. After you receive a statement showing the number

(Continued on Page 8)



The regional companies



1. **Northeast Regional Company** — New England Telephone and New York Telephone. Total assets: \$17.8 billion.
2. **Mid-Atlantic Regional Company** — New Jersey Bell, Bell of Pennsylvania, Diamond State Telephone, and the four Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Companies. Total assets: \$17.3 billion.
3. **Southeast Regional Company** — South Central Bell and Southern Bell. Total assets: \$21.8 billion.
4. **Midwest Regional Company** — Wisconsin Telephone, Michigan Bell, Ohio Bell, Indiana Bell and Illinois Bell. Total assets: \$17 billion.
5. **Southwest Regional Company** — Southwestern Bell. Total assets: \$16 billion.
6. **Mountain and Great Plains Regional Company** — Northwestern Bell, Mountain Bell and Pacific Northwest Bell. Total assets: \$16.1 billion.
7. **Far West Regional Company** — Pacific Telephone and Nevada Bell. Total assets: \$16.6 billion.

Stock, savings and divestiture

(Continued from Page 6)

of shares to which you are entitled, you may decide to do one of the following:

— You may request certificates for your whole shares in each of the holding companies and receive cash for any fractional shares.

— You may choose to deposit your full and fractional shares in dividend reinvestment and stock purchase plans, which the regional holding companies are expected to establish. The plans are similar to the plan now offered by AT&T.

— You can opt to sell the shares of stock in one or more of

the holding companies and have the proceeds from the sale invested in the stock of one or more of the other holding companies. However, you will not be able to transfer your stock in the holding companies to stock in AT&T.

The options will be available for about four to six months after divestiture. After that, shareholders who haven't expressed a preference will receive stock certificates for the whole shares in the holding companies to which they are entitled and cash for any fractional shares.

Those who own 500 or more shares of AT&T stock will receive certificates for their shares in the regional holding companies and cash for fractional shares.

BSSP, SSP and BSVCP

If you are a participant in the Bell System Savings Plan for salaried employees (BSSP) or in the Bell System Savings and Security Plan for non-salaried employees (SSP), here's what you can expect.

BSSP and SSP participants who elected to invest in the AT&T shares option through Dec. 31, 1983, will have units in a fund called Diversified Telephone Portfolio (DTP). This fund will hold shares of the seven regional holding companies as well as AT&T.

Then, you will have the option to transfer the value of units credited to DTP to any other investment option available in your specific plan — or leave it as it stands as of Dec. 31, 1983.

After Dec. 31, 1983, however, DTP won't be an option available for future directions of savings allocated toward your specific savings plan. New savings which you direct toward the AT&T option of your plan will be credited to units in AT&T stock only. It will not include any additional units of stock in the seven regional holding companies.

Employees who participate in the Bell System Voluntary Contribution Plan (BSVCP) will find that the plan will continue unchanged for employees in the

remaining AT&T companies. The plan, similar to individual retirement accounts (IRAs), was established in September 1982 to offer employees a supplemental retirement plan.

Little change with ESOP

For Western Electric employees, the Bell System Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) will continue essentially unchanged. In the plan, the company buys and holds for you one share of AT&T stock each year for each \$10,000 in pay you earn from the company that year.

At divestiture, an appropriate number of shares in the seven regional holding companies will be credited to your ESOP account. However, laws governing this type of company-provided plan don't permit ownership of stock in any company other than the sponsoring company. In our case, AT&T is the sponsoring company.

Therefore, AT&T will sell the shares in the holding companies, reinvest the proceeds in AT&T stock and credit your account accordingly.

What's it worth?

The same marketing principals that govern other stock listed on the stock exchange will determine the market value of AT&T stock and stock in each of the seven regional holding companies after divestiture.

The "book" values of all of the holding companies' shares after divestiture, AT&T says, will amount to roughly three-fourths of the book value of AT&T shares before divestiture.

However, AT&T also notes that current AT&T shareowners should not experience any investment gains or losses, from a tax standpoint, at the immediate point of divestiture and the distribution of the new holding companies' shares of stock.

AT&T will create a new subsidiary to assist shareowners of AT&T and the regional companies in handling and maintaining their accounts.



Stylish frames popular

Appointments for safety eyeglass fittings have been booked solid since the beginning of the year, the medical department's records show.

One wouldn't think those horn-rimmed safety goggles — a staple within Western Electric manufacturing locations for years — would generate such enthusiasm.

Well, they aren't. Rather, their distant and far better-looking cousins — high-style safety eyewear — are the attraction.

Since June 1980 the high-style eyewear has been available as an option to Works employees who are required to wear safety eyeglasses on their jobs. Not until Jan. 3 of this year, how-

ever, were employees able to be reimbursed for the high-style eyewear through Western Electric's vision care plan.

Before the plan, employees could be fitted with standard frame safety eyewear (the horn-rimmed model) at no cost to them. When high-style safety eyewear became available, employees could opt for the more fashionable frames, but at a cost ranging from \$15 to \$25. (In either case, the employee paid for the eye doctor's examination, but the company picked up the cost of the prescription or non-prescription lenses.)

Then the company's vision care plan went into effect Jan. 1 of this year. Now employees who must wear safety glasses may choose high-style frames and be fully reimbursed through the vision care plan for the \$20 charge for frames, payable through payroll deduction.

The new vision care plan is designed to encourage vision examinations. In addition to helping employees and dependents pay for eyeglass frames, the plan

also helps pay for vision examinations and prescription eyeglass lenses or contact lenses.

The plan as a whole has been well received by employees, but its impact on safety eyeglass frames has been most dramatic. According to Donna Sheppard, secretary for the medical department, the number of requisitions she has processed for the high-style safety eyewear is unusually high.

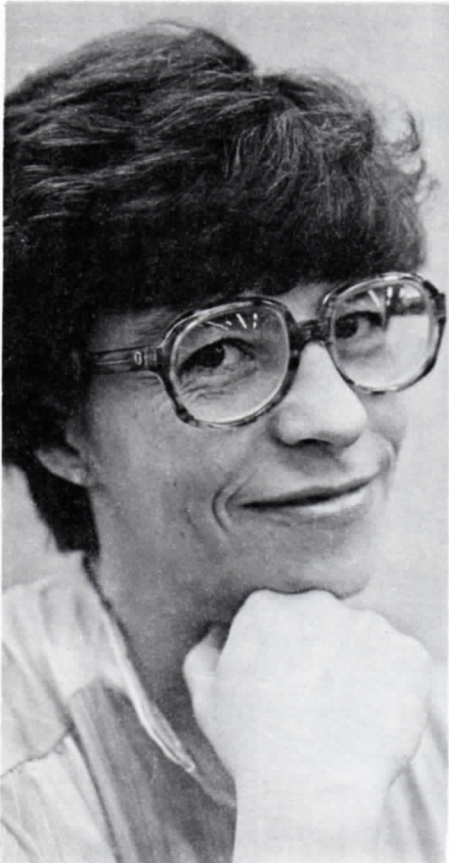
Employees are fitted for frames — by appointment only — three mornings and two evenings a week in an office opposite medical examining rooms in Building 20. Rarely are there any cancellations.

Eligible employees may obtain high-style safety eyewear as long as they have not had new glasses issued to them within the past two years. Also, an employee who loses his or her safety glasses will not be eligible to replace their lost glasses with the high-style frames until two years after the date the lost eyeglasses were issued.

Still, business is thriving, and why not? Like the standard safety frames of old, the fashionable frames also have removable side shields so an employee may wear his glasses away from work, too.

Best of all, most employees like Jeannie Opryszko agree that the high-style frames are more attractive to wear. When asked whether that really makes any difference when you're assembling 80-type cabinets in Dept. 445, Jeannie just rolled her eyes behind her new high-style frames.

It certainly does.



THE EYES HAVE IT . . . High-style safety frames (left) are preferred by Jeannie Opryszko. Without them, she's just another face on the shop floor wearing the old style standard frames (right).

Suggestions pay

Three more Works employees have found out that it doesn't pay to keep ideas to yourself. Rather, submit them for consideration by the employee suggestion program's committee.

Richard Mass of Dept. 035 has been awarded \$635 for an idea he submitted. Howard Suter and Gary Williams of Dept. 032 each received \$150 for a joint idea they proposed.

etc.

Food drive slated

We're all hearing about the soup lines that are forming these days, as more people are caught in the economic crunch.

Employees will have a chance to help people who might otherwise be standing in one of those lines when the Cornhusker Chapter Pioneers conduct their food drive March 28 and 29.

Each employee is asked to bring to work at least one non-perishable food item to be given to the Omaha Area Food Bank. The food bank is the main supplier for various food distribution programs throughout the city.

Food goods should be placed in any of the six drop boxes that will be at the entrances to the office and shops — two each in Buildings 30 and 50, and at the east and west entrances to Building 20.

The Pioneers are aiming for 100 percent employee participation.

The food goods will be made available to the needy in time for the Easter weekend following the drive.

For the birds

"Come fly with me" has nothing to do with a discount airline ticket promotion.

It's the slogan for this year's Henry Doorly Zoo membership drive in progress through the end of March. The drive seeks to raise money for a free-flight aviary at the zoo, which will be home for more than 400 birds from across the world. It's projected to be the nation's largest aviary of its type.

Zoo memberships cost \$25 and entitle you and your whole family to unlimited use of the zoo. That's a real bargain when you consider normal admission to the zoo costs \$3.85 for adults and \$1.45 for children ages 5 through 11. Also, after April 12, family memberships will cost

\$30.

Memberships are available through zoo drive solicitors in each subbranch. If you haven't been contacted and are interested in a zoo membership, call Dick McGaughey on Ext. 3043, this year's drive chairman.

Dividends declared

AT&T directors have declared a regular quarterly dividend of \$1.35 on the company's common shares and a special, one-time 45-cent common dividend.

The special dividend will enable the company to pay its future quarterly dividends on the first working days of May, August, November and February, and is one step in aligning the dividend payment to other aspects of the transition planning for divestiture.

The regular \$1.35 dividend will be paid on April 1, 1983 to share owners of record Feb. 28, 1983. The 45-cent special dividend will be paid May 2, 1983, to share owners of record March 31, 1983.

This isn't a dividend increase but a change to accommodate the new dividend payment dates. Payments historically have been

made on the first working day of January, April, July and October.

Savings plans results

The following are the December unit values for the Bell System Savings Plan (BSSP), the Savings and Security Plan (SSP) for non-salaried employees, and the Bell System Voluntary Contribution Plan (BSVCP).

BSSP		
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	3.0419	.3287
Government Obligations	3.0381	.3243
Equity Portfolio	2.1807	.4585
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.3906	.7190
SSP		
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	1.4205	.7039
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.4884	.6718
BSVCP		
	Units Value	Units Credited Per Dollar
AT&T	1.003	.996
Mutual Fund	1.168	.855
Money Market	1.022	.978
Guaranteed Interest Fund	1.030	.970



Service anniversaries

40 years

J. L. Ault	200	3/18
E. A. Gembica	1231	3/3

35 years

J. Maul	435	3/1
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30 years

J. A. Frazier	252	3/25
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25 years

R. F. Berge	531	3/17
W. E. Bystrom	034	3/17
D. E. Cox	3442	3/11
E. J. Franks	252	3/24
D. W. Hunt	287	3/24
M. J. Jones	530	3/12
B. L. Kocanda	447	3/17
E. D. Kucera	251	3/10
R. W. Lowe	533	3/10
S. J. Marasco	282	3/17

C. L. Miller	034	3/24
L. L. Mongar	253	3/31
J. R. Salkeld	031	3/31
R. A. Spethman	034	3/10
D. A. Suhr	034	3/10
J. D. Swift	431	3/12
K. Szekeres	032	3/26
D. E. Whitehill	035	3/5
J. B. Wolverton	445	3/8

20 years

B. W. Gibb, Jr.	251	3/18
R. H. Hoffmann	287	3/10
M. V. Johnson	283	3/27
M. L. Molek	252	3/31
R. F. Morisch	253	3/11
S. H. Parks	445	3/15
D. Perry	441	3/21
R. A. Powell	282	3/19
L. L. Richards	1722	3/14
P. M. Stoddard	282	3/4

15 Years

P. G. Abdouch	072	3/4
M. H. Boston	283	3/23
M. T. Cochrane	071	3/13
T. A. Cutler, Jr.	445	3/11
G. L. Hurt	444	3/23
L. E. Killian	441	3/8
J. J. Perryman	035	3/18
A. J. Pfeiffer, Jr.	032	3/26
P. M. Raabe	439	3/25
R. L. Slobodnik	252	3/28
B. G. Spain	283	3/10
C. E. Taylor	1231	3/29
L. S. Wilbur	445	3/26

Mark your calendars

- Dec. 31, 1982-1983 New Year's Day
- March 31 — Floating holiday
- April 1 — Good Friday
- May 30 — Memorial Day
- May 31 — Standard vacation day*
- July 4 — Independence Day
- July 5 — Standard vacation day*
- Sept. 5 — Labor Day
- Sept. 6 — Standard vacation day*
- Nov. 24, 25 — Thanksgiving
- Dec. 23 — Christmas Eve holiday
- Dec. 26 — Christmas Day
- Dec. 27, 28 — Standard vacation days*
- Dec. 29 — Management personal day (MPD) or excused workday (EWD)
- Dec. 30 — 1984 New Year's Day

*The standard vacation periods for 1983 consist of five days as listed. The designation of three of the days in conjunction with holidays provides for four-day weekends. Dec. 29 is a company-designated MPD or EWD. Personal days off without pay or remaining management personal days or excused workdays may not be substituted for standard vacation days. The balance of an employee's vacation eligibility shall be scheduled with the approval of one's supervisor and consistent with the needs of the business.

Retirements



George Jones
26 years



Raymond Otte
26 years



Herman
Abraham
26 years



Leo Ambrose
24 years



Harry
Sheldon
21 years

Not pictured:

- Bob Morey — 36 years
- Joe Leyendecker — 24 years
- Mel Glismann — 26 years
- Werner Hofmann — 26 years
- Leslie Irvine — 24 years
- Willis Sturgeon — 26 years
- Jim Detmers — 25 years
- Robert Simons — 24 years
- John Schmidt — 24 years
- Karl Holz — 26 years



Last frame

Two heads are better than one, especially when it's time to fill out federal income tax statements.

Twenty-seven members of the Cornhusker Chapter Pioneers are helping citizens from the community fill out their 1040

short form federal income tax statements. They are participating in the Volunteer Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

Assistance is given at various sites throughout the city, including the YMCA at 75th and Maple streets, the Social Settlement at 48th and Q streets, and the Millard Nutrition Center not far from the Works. The program will continue through the tax deadline date, April 15.

Pioneer life members Jerry

Alfons and Bob Dostert (clockwise, from left) were at the Millard site helping Mr. and Mrs. George Wiese and Lanora Schulte with their statements.

They worked in a room that doubles as a Sunday School meeting place for a neighboring church, which explains the banner proclaiming, "Jesus loves you!"

At this time of the year, so does Uncle Sam.



Omaha Works
P.O. Box 37000
Omaha, Ne. 68137